

Please amend the claims to read as follows.

1 1. (currently amended) In a system for distributed computing
2 connected via the World Wide Web (Web), a system for
3 tracking distributed computer power to users and
4 compensating computer power providers comprising:
5 a computer power service broker;
6 means, associated with said broker, for soliciting each
7 of a plurality of client computer stations on the Web to
8 offer for general distribution over the Web computer power
9 in excess to the computer power requirements of each
10 respective client computer station;
11 means, associated with said broker, for soliciting a
12 plurality of consumer stations on the Web to request [the]
13 performance of functions requiring computer power;
14 means, associated with said broker, for distributing
15 each of said requested functions requiring computer power
16 among a plurality of said client computer stations offering
17 said computer power;
18 means for permitting, by each of said client computer
19 stations, said computer power service broker to access, via
20 the Web, the computer power of said client computer station;
21 means for distributing through said broker via the Web
22 to said client computer station, a process permitting said
23 computer power service broker to access the computer power
24 of said client station;
25 means, associated with said broker, for tracking and
26 for billing consumer stations for computer power used in
27 performance of requested functions; and
28 means, associated with said broker, for tracking and
29 compensating said client computer stations for said excess
30 computer power used in performance of said requested
31 functions.

1 2. (currently amended) The Web system for tracking
2 distributed computer power of claim 1 further including
3 means associated with said broker for determining [the]
4 market value of computer power provided by each client
5 computer station in performance of said requested functions.

1 3. (currently amended) The Web system for tracking
2 distributed computer power of claim 2 wherein said means for
3 compensating said client computer stations for said computer
4 power pay said client computer stations the market value of
5 the computer power provided.

1 4. (currently amended) The Web system for tracking
2 distributed computer power of claim 2 wherein:
3 said consumer stations requesting the performance of
4 functions requiring computer power are owned by charitable
5 organizations; and
6 said means compensating said client computer stations
7 for said computer power ~~compensate said client stations~~ by
8 providing a Web document indicating the contribution of the
9 market value of the computer power supplied.

1 5. (currently amended) The Web system for tracking
2 distributed computer power of claim 2 wherein the market
3 value of the computer power provided by each client computer
4 station is determined by [the] an amount of data processed
5 and [the] a type of data processing used in processing the
6 data.

6-7 (cancelled).

1 8. (currently amended) In distributed computing via the
2 World Wide Web (Web) connections, a method for tracking
3 distributed computer power to users and compensating
4 computer power providers comprising:
5 soliciting, through a computer power service broker,
6 each of a plurality of client computer stations on the Web
7 to offer for general distribution over the Web computer
8 power in excess to the computer power requirements of each
9 client respective computer station;
10 soliciting, through a computer power service broker, a
11 plurality of consumer stations on the Web to request [the]
12 performance of functions requiring computer power;
13 distributing, through said broker, each of said
14 requested functions requiring computer power among a
15 plurality of said client computer stations offering said
16 computer power;
17 permitting, by each of said client computer stations,
18 said computer power service broker to access, via the Web,
19 the computer power of said client computer station;
20 distributing through said broker via the Web to said
21 client computer station, a process permitting said computer
22 power service broker to access the computer power of said
23 client station;
24 tracking and for billing, through said broker, consumer
25 stations for computer power used in performance of requested
26 functions; and
27 tracking and compensating, through said broker, said
28 client computer stations for said excess computer power used
29 in performance of said requested functions.

1 9. (currently amended) The method for tracking distributed
2 computer power of claim 8 further including the step of
3 determining, through said broker, [the] market value of
4 computer power provided by each client computer station in
5 performance of said requested functions.

1 10. (currently amended) The method for tracking distributed
2 computer power of claim 9 wherein said step of compensating
3 said client computer stations for said computer power pays
4 said client computer stations the market value of the
5 computer power provided.

1 11. (currently amended) The method for tracking distributed
2 computer power of claim 9 wherein:
3 said consumer stations requesting the performance of
4 functions requiring computer power are owned by charitable
5 organizations; and
6 said step of compensating said client computer stations
7 for said computer power ~~compensates said client stations by~~
8 providing provides a Web document indicating the
9 contribution of the market value of the computer power
10 supplied.

1 12. (currently amended) The method for tracking distributed
2 computer power of claim 9 wherein the market value of the
3 computer power provided by each client computer station is
4 determined by [the] an amount of data processed and [the] a
5 type of data processing used in processing the data.

13-14 (cancelled).

1 15-20 (cancelled).

1 21. (new) A computer program comprising a computer useable
2 medium having a computer readable program for tracking
3 distributed computer power to users and compensating
4 computer power providers in distributed computing via the
5 World Wide Web (Web) connections, wherein the computer
6 readable program when executed on a computer causes the
7 computer to:

8 solicit, through a computer power service broker, each
9 of a plurality of client computer stations on the Web to
10 offer for general distribution over the Web computer power
11 in excess to the computer power requirements of each client
12 respective computer station;

13 solicit, through a computer power service broker, a
14 plurality of consumer stations on the Web to request
15 performance of functions requiring computer power;

16 distribute, through said broker, each of said requested
17 functions requiring computer power among a plurality of said
18 client computer stations offering said computer power;

19 enable each of said client computer stations to permit
20 said computer power service broker to access, via the Web,
21 the computer power of said client computer station;

22 distribute through said broker via the Web to said
23 client computer station, a process permitting said computer
24 power service broker to access the computer power of said
25 client station;

26 track and bill, through said broker, consumer stations
27 for computer power used in performance of requested
28 functions; and

29 track and compensate, through said broker, said client
30 computer stations for said excess computer power used in
31 performance of said requested functions.

1 22. (new) The computer program of claim 21 wherein the
2 program further causes the computer to determine through
3 said broker, market value of computer power provided by each
4 client computer station in performance of said requested
5 functions.

1 23. (new) The computer program of claim 22 wherein said
2 computer program causes the computer to compensate said
3 client computer stations for said computer power by paying
4 said client computer stations the market value of the
5 computer power provided.

1 24. (new) The computer program of claim 22 wherein:
2 said consumer stations requesting the performance of
3 functions requiring computer power are owned by charitable
4 organizations; and
5 said computer program causes the computer to compensate
6 said client computer stations for said computer power by
7 providing a Web document indicating the contribution of the
8 market value of the computer power supplied.

1 25. (new) The computer program of claim 22 wherein said
2 computer program causes the computer to determine market
3 value of the computer power provided by each client computer
4 station by an amount of data processed and a type of data
5 processing used in processing the data.

Summary of Telephone Interview with Examiner on 05/23/07.

Applicants thank Examiner for the telephone interview extended to their attorney, J. B. Kraft on May 23, 2007. As Applicants set forth in that interview, the claims have been amended to specifically cover Applicants' preferred embodiment. Thus, representative claim 8 has been amended to include all of the elements of cancelled claims 13 and 14. Applicants pointed out that in Applicants' claimed invention included a computer power distribution method wherein each of the client stations providing power permits the power service broker access, via the Web, to their available computer power, and the broker then distributes, via the Web, to these client stations (providing the computer power) a process enabling the broker to access the computer power of a client station.

It is submitted that the references, and particularly the basic McKnight patent cited for this feature, do not disclose this. In the interview, Applicants argued that while McKnight in general did disclose a variety of computer power distribution functions including soliciting power from client stations, distributing such power to a set of consumers, tracking consumer usage, and carrying out appropriate collection and payment to client stations. However, McKnight failed to disclose the above mentioned combination of the presently claimed invention.